

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Montfort et al.; Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al. and Claims 8, 10, 12, 44 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al. and Kobayashi et al. Claims 1-12 and 43-46 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Montfort et al., it is to be noted that Claims 1 and 11 have now been amended so as to clarify the fact that the at least one vibration application part and the blade member are disposed on a first side and a second side, respectively, of the vibration member at a free end thereof, the first and second side of the vibration member facing away from each other. Support for the amendment made to these claims may be found, *inter alia*, at page 43, line 21 through page 44, line 1 in the specification wherein it is disclosed:

The vibration application parts 23 are disposed close the image carrier-side end of the vibration member 22. That is, the vibration application parts 23 are disposed at the free end 22b on the side opposite to the side to which the blade 21 is attached.

Applicants submit that Montfort et al. neither teaches nor discloses the above-described feature of the present invention which has been added to independent Claims 1 and 11. More particularly, among other things, the transducer 102 of Montfort et al., which the Examiner relies on for the alleged disclosure of the “at least one vibration application part” of the present invention, is not disposed at a free end of the waveguide 84 of Montfort et al., which the Examiner further relies upon for the alleged disclosure of the “vibration member” of the present invention. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Montfort et al. does not

teach or suggest the combined limitations of each of independent Claims 1 and 2, as now amended. It is therefore submitted that each of Claims 1, 7 and 11 patentably define over Montfort et al.

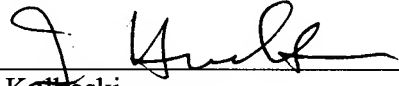
Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al., in view of the amendments made to Claims 1 and 11 and the manner in which the limitations added patentably define over Montfort et al., it is submitted that Yoshikawa fails to rectify the deficiencies noted hereinabove regarding Montfort et al. More particularly, the piezo electric element (as a vibration applying device) 15 of Yoshikawa, which the Examiner relies upon for the alleged disclosure of the “at least one vibration application part” of the present invention, is not disposed at a free end of the parts between the cleaning blade 3 and the piezo electric element 15 of Yoshikawa, which the Examiner relies upon for the alleged disclosure of the “vibration member” of the present invention. As can thus be appreciated, the combination of Yoshikawa and Montfort et al. does not teach or disclose the limitations of each of independent Claims 1 and 11, as now amended. In view of the dependency of Claims 2-7 and 9 on Claim 1, it is submitted that each of the above-noted pending claims merit indication of allowability.

Lastly considering then the rejection of Claims 8, 10, 12, 44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Montfort et al. and Kobayashi et al., it is submitted that Kobayashi et al. fails to rectify the deficiencies noted hereinabove with regard to Yoshikawa and Montfort et al., it being noted that Kobayashi et al. has been cited solely for teaching of an image-forming apparatus forming a color image. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of Claims 8, 10, 12, 44 and 46 also merit indication of allowability with the same being hereby respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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